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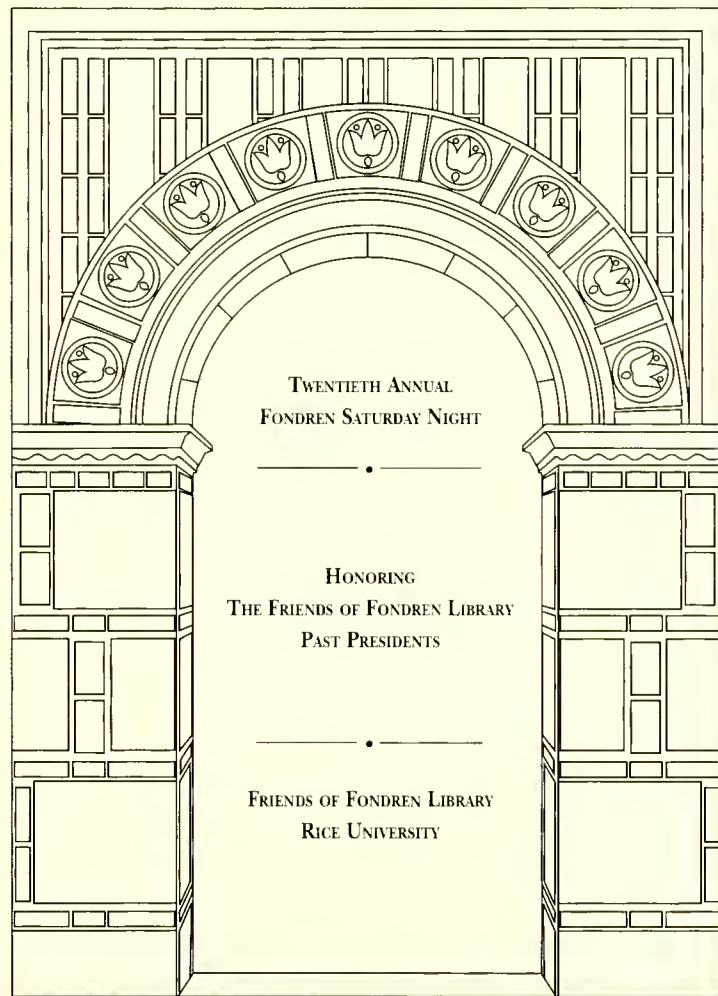
The Flyleaf

RICE UNIVERSITY
SEP 21 2000
LIBRARY

Friends of Fondren Library

Vol. 50, No. 2

Summer 2000



The Friends of Fondren Library
Celebrate Fiftieth Anniversary

A Letter to the Friends

Dear Friends of Fondren Library:

A number of exciting events have transpired since I last wrote to you, our gala celebrating our fiftieth anniversary in particular. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lee Scureau, who chaired this very special event, all the board members who labored for months to make this a perfect evening, and all our loyal underwriters and auction donors, our ticket buyers, and the purchasers of our live and silent auction items. Fondren Library was decorated as we had never seen it, and as Helen Worden described it, "it was magical." This year's gala celebration raised \$97,732 for the Friends, including a record of \$30,541 from the auction.

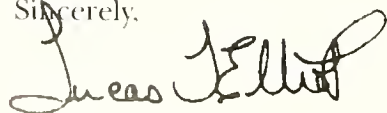
Our January event was the annual Rice Authors Reception honoring faculty, staff, alumni, and Friends who published books in 1999. Karen Rogers chaired the event and also moderated the panel discussion. You can read more about this interesting afternoon in this issue of *The Flyleaf*.

Our Annual Meeting on May 23 was well attended by both our board and our general membership. Geoffrey Freeman, Principal of the architecture firm Shepley Bullfinch Richardson and Abbott, and project architect for the renovation of Fondren Library, enlightened us with a speech and slide show on current trends in library architecture.

Please join me in welcoming Mary Pat Julian, new Associate Director of the Friends of Fondren Library. Before joining the Friends, Mary Pat worked in the financial industry, and in planned giving at Rice for the past six months. We are delighted that she will be working with the Friends, and I urge you to stop by the office to get to know her.

This fall promises to be just as exciting as last fall. Please mark your calendars for our first event. Dr. Antonio Damasio, author of *Descartes' Error* and *The Feeling of What Happens*, will be our Distinguished Guest Lecturer on Sunday, September 17. Invitations will be mailed in August, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,



Lucas T. Elliot
President

Fondren Library

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present building was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library celebrated its half-millionth volume in 1965 and its one-millionth volume on April 22, 1979.

The Friends

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' contributions and sponsorship of a program of memorials and honor gifts, secure gifts and bequests, and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials that are needed to support teaching and research at the university.

The Flyleaf

Founded October, 1950, *The Flyleaf* is published by the Friends of Fondren Library, MS - 245, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251-1892. *The Flyleaf* is a record of the activities of the Friends, the Fondren Library, and the generosity of the library's supporters. *The Flyleaf* is published three times in each academic calendar year and is also available online at the Friends of Fondren web site at <http://ruf.rice.edu/~fofl/>.



The Flyleaf

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Contents

2000 Gala	Page 4
Rice Authors	Page 11
Book Drive	Page 14
FOFL Guest Lecturer	Page 15
Annual Meeting	Page 16
Bookmark	Page 18
Treasures in the Attic	Page 21
Friends of Fondren Library	Page 23
Gifts to Fondren Library	Page 25
Looking Ahead	Page 32

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Twentieth Annual Fondren Saturday Night

Friends of Fondren hold their annual gala

On Saturday, February 19, 2000, the Friends of Fondren Library hosted a glorious evening at Fondren Library, which was transformed from an area of academia to one of the most elegant galas ever. China, crystal, calla lilies, and gourmet dining by Jackson Hicks set the mood.

In celebration



Malcolm Gillis, Mrs. James L. Whitcomb and Bucky Allshouse

Brown, Margaret Dudley Cashman, David Hannah, Jr., William J. Hudspeth, and James L. Whitcomb, formally established the Friends and also decided to publish a quarterly journal called *The Flyleaf*.

In planning the next meeting of the organization, William S. Dix, Fondren Librarian, wrote to Mr. William

Yu. Thanks to their endless hours of work and dedication, this year's auction was the most successful yet.

At the first meeting of The Friends of Fondren Library on May 30, 1950, a small group defined two primary objectives: to increase its own membership and to

Bridgewater of the Columbia University Press to persuade him to speak to the group: "The Friends group is a new organization composed of...alumnae and others who are interested in our new Fondren Library. They are enthusiastic people manifesting their allegiance to Rice along intellectual lines.... and the whole



Vicky Elliot and Walter Isle

of its Fiftieth Anniversary, the Friends honored its past presidents who are listed on page 5.

Lee Seureau, chair of the gala, was assisted by gala committee members Texas Anderson, Frances Heyne, Becky Hunter, Elizabeth Kidd, Karen Rogers, Phyllis Tudor, and Wellington

secure funds for the purchase of rare and important materials that could not otherwise be acquired by the library. At 8 o'clock in the evening in the Lecture Lounge of Fondren Library, Katherine Tsanoff



W.T. Thagard and Helen Worden

The FOFL Past Presidents

- 1950-51 James L. Whitcomb*
 1951-52 Margaret Cashman
 (Mrs. John E.)*
 1952-53 Talbott Wilson*
 1953-55 A. D. Dyess, Jr.
 1955-58 Carl Illig*
 1959-66 Sally Kelley
 (Mrs. Edward W.)*
 1966-69 William V. Ballew, Jr.*
 1970-72 Demaris Hudspeth
 (Mrs. C. M.)
 1972-73 Ralph Anderson*
 1973-75 Mrs. Carl Illig (Lillian)
 1975-76 Ellen Kelley
 (Mrs. Edward W., Jr.)*
 1976-77 Stanley McDonald*
 1977-78 Kay Dobelman
 (Mrs. Gerard)
 1978-81 Walter S. Baker, Jr.
 1981-83 Thomas D. Smith*
 1983-84 John T. Cabaniss
 1984-86 John B. Baird
 1986-88 David D. Itz
 1988-90 Edgar O. Lovett II
 1990-91 David S. Elder
 1991-93 Elaine Illig Davis
 1993-95 Roxanne K. Shaw
 1995-97 Sally K. Reynolds
 1997-98 Elizabeth W. Kidd
 1998-99 Texas Anderson

*Deceased



Betty and John Cabaniss



Julie and Logan Browning



Ann and Bob Baillio



Julie Itz and Mary Catherine Miller



Jeanette and King Walters



Lee Seureau and Nancy Akers

movement seems to me quite promising..."

From a charter membership of 30, the organization has grown to approximately 1300 memberships today, a figure that represents nearly 2000 members. The Friends, now the oldest support group on the Rice University campus, has maintained its enthusiasm and fulfilled its promise, and over the years it has successfully established strong partnerships with the Rice administration, faculty, alumni, other Rice support groups, and the staff of Fondren Library. Many goals have been reached and surpassed due to the loyalty and generosity of these groups and individuals.

Over the years the Friends has worked hard to enhance the



Bobby and Phoebe Tudor with Frances Heyne and Elizabeth Gillis

Gala Committee

Lee Chatham Seureau, Chair
Texas Anderson
Frances Heyne
Becky Hunter
Elizabeth W. Kidd
Karen Hess Rogers
Phoebe Tudor
Wellington Yu



Malcolm Gillis, Kay Dobelman, Mrs. James Whitcomb and Albert Kidd.

collection of Fondren Library. Shortly after its inaugural meeting, the organization recorded its first gift to the library: a collection of thirty French scientific monographs presented in the name of the French government by its consul general in Houston, M. Henri Jean Job. In 1977 the Friends donated a first edition of the collected works of Beaumont and Fletcher, *Comedies and Tragedies*. More recently, Mrs. James A. Darby, Jr., gave the family's collection of Sam Houston Papers.

Ben M. Anderson donated his large collection on the history of aeronautics, which includes books, journals, and memorabilia. Richard O. Wilson presented the library with his collection of maps, and Benjamin Woodson donated his diaries, which cover the period when he was CEO of American General.

The first Fondren Library endowed fund was established in 1953 by Florence Allen Blair Hermida in memory of her father, Robert Cyrus Allen. Since then, many other library endowments have been established. In 1976 Mr. and Mrs. H. Malcolm Lovett



Demaris and Hank Hudspeth with Iris Ballew

established the Friends of Fondren Library Endowment with an initial gift of \$1,000. This fund has been enhanced over the years by additional gifts and by

Friends' fundraising events and has reached the \$2.3 million level. In 1997 the Friends established a Special Collections Endowed Fund which has reached a value of nearly \$200,000.

The Friends have provided funds for the enhancement of the library building as well. The renovation of the fourth-floor foyer, now the Sarah Lane Lounge, was dedicated in 1984, and most recently the organization spearheaded a \$200,000



Frances Brotzen, Elizabeth Kidd, Roy and Evelyn Nolen

alumnus of Brown University, James L. Whitcomb. Whether graduates of Rice University or another institution, FOFL presidents and board members have been dedicated and innovative leaders who are committed to supporting Fondren Library.

The two objectives defined in 1950—increasing membership and raising funds for the

donors. Additional objectives are the administration of the Gifts and Memorials program, hosting events of interest to the Rice community and to Houston, and cultivating and maintaining an involved board of directors.

The Friends can be proud of many accomplishments over the past fifty years. The challenge remains and is now renewed with the Rice University initiative to renovate and expand the library. The 1997 *Report of the Library Planning Committee* concluded, "Fondren Library should become an elegant and flexible laboratory for its own evolution, a place where the idea of a library is studied, enriched, and transcended." The Friends of Fondren Library looks forward to this new Fondren and to the next fifty years.



Charles Giraud, Melinda Snell and Pamela Giraud

fundraising effort to support the extensive renovation of the library, completed in the fall of 1989.

The current board of directors is larger than the entire charter membership who gathered in 1950 and elected as president an

library—are still primary. *The Flyleaf* continues to be published, providing a record of the organization's activities and the contributions of



Mary Bixby and Lucas Elliot

*Friends of Fondren would like to thank the following
underwriters and donors for making the gala a success:*

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Louisa Stude Sarofim

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Urban Retreat
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Temple Webber
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The Friends of Fondren Library wishes to thank

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Special Thanks To

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President and Mrs. Malcolm Gillis
Joe Hatfield
Fannie Haynes
Charles Henry
Becky Hunter
Ferne Hyman
Caroline Jinks
The Staff of Fondren Library

Just a reminder

Rice University has a new telephone prefix. All numbers begin with **348**.

To reach the Friends of Fondren office, call 713-348-5157. The fax number is 713-348-5855.

Friends Honor 1999 Rice Authors

BY KAREN HESS ROGERS

On Sunday afternoon, January 23, the Friends of Fondren Library hosted a distinguished panel of authors: a psychologist, a statistician, a religious studies scholar and a linguist. I myself had the honor of chairing this event and the additional honor of moder-

well educated and prosperous, who refuses to read works of fiction, believing that she is wasting her time if she reads about things that never happened.

I then introduced the authors and asked them to speak about what inspired them to write the books they did.

Matthias Henze, the reli-

inconsistencies in Biblical texts that led to critical thinking and the methodologies developed in the last two hundred years to deal with these problems. He also cited the major discoveries in the Middle East that allow Biblical text to be put in context as never before.



Nancy Niedzielski, Matthias Henze, Jim Thompson and Rita Justice

ating the discussion. I opened the talks with comments about individual tastes in reading and what motivates people's choices. To illustrate this, I shared the true story a fellow board member had recounted the day before. She has a friend,

gious studies expert, joked that he does not assign his books for his students to read; rather, he only has them *buy* them. He began his presentation with an overview of Biblical scholarship as it has evolved in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He pointed out the awareness of

He said that an exciting development within the last ten years has been the study of text reception as well as text production. He argued in his book that these two approaches are not mutually exclusive, and they should both be

integrated into the study of religion.

Rita Justice, the psychologist, had recently written and published *The Consumer's Guide to Husband Material*. She said that she was prompted to write this book because of the unwise choices she had seen many women make in her thirty

line, and she has to write books that people will buy.

Nancy Niedzielski, the linguist, explained her research for her book as comparing what non-linguists *think* with what linguists *know*, a socio-linguistic approach. She believes that linguists should pay attention to systems of folk beliefs. This project began, like that of Dr.

tists among them. He has worked with statistical models dealing with cancer at M. D. Anderson and the AIDS epidemic in Houston. He referred to his book as a "monograph;" when asked the difference between a book and a monograph, he replied, "with a monograph you light candles if it sells



Karen Rogers and Alan Bath

years of practice. We have consumers' guides for every other kind of product, and she feels a guide to choosing husbands is useful as well. It is written in a playful style but with serious intent. When asked if she plans to publish a consumer's guide to *wife* material, she pointed out that men do not buy self-help books. Since these are self-published, she has to keep an eye on the bottom

Henze's, as a dissertation, and it allowed her to discover the direction her research would take. She had a National Science Foundation grant and conducted hundreds of hours of interviews. When asked if there is a standard English dialect in the United States, she said "no."

Jim Thompson, the statistician, explained that this was his ninth book, and he believes the purpose of writing books is to encourage other people, scien-

4,000 copies!" He credits the computer with making books much easier to write.

The program concluded with a delightful reception of light hors d'oeuvres and beverages catered by long-time Fondren staffer Fannie Haynes.

Authors and most recent works

John Anderson	Antarctic Marine Geology
A.C. Antoulas	Ed., Systems and Control Letters
Philip B. Bedient	Ground Water Contamination
Virginia Bernhard	Slaves and Slaveholders in Bermuda 1616-1782
John Boles	Ed., Journal of Southern History
Baruch Brody	Social and Political Philosophy
Catherine Savage Brosman	Visions of War in France: Fiction, Art, Ideology
Logan Browning	Ed., SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900
Christopher J. Castaneda	Invisible Fuel: Manufactured and Natural Gas in America 1800-2000
	Builders: Herman and George R. Brown
Jane Chance	The Assembly of Gods
	Ed., On Natural Philosophy and Medicine: Selections from Cause et Cure
	Ed., Women Saints Lives in Old English Prose
	Ed., Angela of Foligno's Memorial
Krista Comer	Landscapes of the New West: Gender and Geography in Contemporary Women's Writing
Lynda Crist	Ed., The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Vol. 10
Mary S. Dix	Ed., The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Vol. 10
Jennifer M. George	Understanding and Managing Organizational Behavior, 2nd. Ed.
Matthias Henze	The Madness of King Nebuchadnezzar: the Ancient Near Eastern Origins and Early History of Interpretation of Daniel 4
Blair Justice	Visits with Violet
Rita Justice	Consumer's Guide to Husband Material
Sydney M. Lamb	Pathways of the Brain
George E. Marcus	Ed., Critical Anthropology
	Ed., Paranoia Within Reason
Eric Margolis	Ed., Concepts: Core Readings
John Margrave	Ed., High Temperature....
K. McDonald	Ed., SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900
Susan McIntosh	Ed., Beyond Chieftdoms
Elizabeth Moon	Change of Command
Hamid Naficy	Ed., Home, Exile, Homeland: Film, Media, and the Politics of Place
H. Albert Napier	Business Planning
Charles Newell	Ground Water Contamination
Nancy A. Niedzielski	Folk Linguistics
Daniel Osherson	Systems that Learn: an Introduction to Learning Theory, 2nd ed.
William B. Parsons	The Enigma of the Oceanic Feeling
Robert L. Patten	Ed., SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900
William Bowman Piper	Reconcilable Differences in 18th Century Literature
George Sher	Social and Political Philosophy
Pol D. Spanos	Ed., International J. of Non-Linear Mechanics
	Ed., Probabilistic Engineering Mechanics
Gale Stokes	The West Transformed
Manik Talwani	Ed., Atlantic Rifts and Continental Margins
James R. Thompson	Simulation: A Modeler's Approach
	Business Planning
Edward E. William	Business Planning
Kenneth H. Williams	Ed., The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Vol. 10

Drive 2000 Book Sale



Elizabeth Kidd and Robins Brice

In anticipation of the 2001 Book Sale, the Friends of Fondren Library is sponsoring a book drive on Saturday, October 28, 2000. Donations of hard and paper back books will be gladly received at Star Motor Cars' new

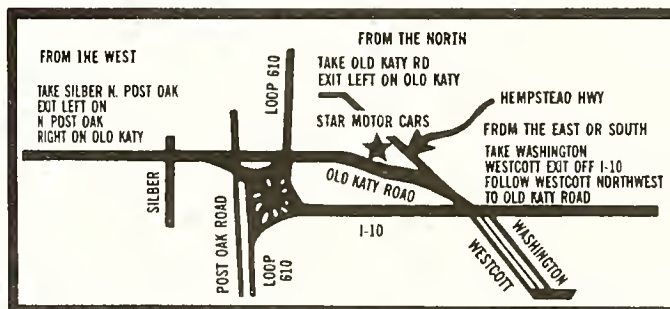
Mercedes Benz building, 7000 Old Katy Road, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Tax receipts will be available. If donors cannot deliver the books on October 28, they may be dropped off at Star Motor Cars any time during business hours.

We collect books year-round and we need hundreds and hundreds of new and used books to

ensure the success of future book sales. Please pack books in boxes rather than paper bags. If you must use bags, please double-bag.

While we appreciate the generosity of all book donors, we find that it is virtually impossible to sell certain items: sets of old encyclopedias, magazines, books damaged by insects or dirt, outdated technical books, outdated directories, catalogs, damaged or yellowed paperbacks. Thank you in advance for finding another destination for these types of materials.

Mark your calendars for the book drive in 2000. The tentative dates for the 2001 Book Sale are October 25 – 28.



FOFL Announces 2000 Guest Lecturer

The Friends are pleased to announce that this year's Distinguished Guest Lecturer will be Dr. Antonio R. Damasio, author of *Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason and the Human Brain* and *The Feeling of What Happens: Body and Emotion in the Making of Consciousness*. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 17, 2000, at 5:00 p.m. at Stude Hall, Alice Pratt Brown Hall.

Dr. Damasio is the Van Allen Distinguished Professor and head of the Department of Neurology at the University of Iowa Medical Center (the largest university hospital in the world) and is an adjunct professor at the Salk Institute in San Diego. The recipient of scores of scientific honors, he is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences and American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Damasio's work has focused on elucidating critical problems in the fundamental neuroscience of mind and behavior. His contributions have had a major influence on our understanding of the neural basis of decision-making, emotion, language, and memory.

Dr. Damasio was born in Portugal. He received both his M.D. and his doctorate from



Dr. Antonio R. Damasio

the University of Lisbon, and began his research in cognitive neuroscience with the late Norman Geschwind. Damasio collaborates with his wife, Hanna Damasio, a distinguished neurologist independently recognized for her achievements in neuroimaging and neuroanatomy.

Comments on Damasio's Books

Descartes' Error

"Crucial reading not only for neuroscientists and philosophers but for lay readers too." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"...Damasio's influence will extend far beyond the pa-

rameters of the scientific community with this marvelously lucid and engaging presentation of his innovative ideas about the interconnectedness of mind and body." —*Booklist*

The Feeling of What Happens

"This is not casual reading, but eventually anyone can master it; and unlike any other book here, it will change your experience of yourself." —*The New York*

Times Book Review in its article on Best Books of 1999

"...a monumental book rich in a profusion of testable hypotheses, invigorating findings and clinical narratives, written in a language that manages simultaneously to be sturdily hard-headed and gloriously poetic; a gem of a work indeed."

—*Sunday Times, London*

"...I believe that the book's clear, beautiful language, its fascinating case studies and the way in which it brings difficult scientific issues to life for readers with many different interests may actually make it a landmark in the interdisciplinary project of consciousness research."

—*Scientific American*

The Friends of Fondren Library Annual Meeting and Dinner

BY MICHELLE SHEDD



Lucas Elliot, Chuck Henry, Geoffrey Freeman and Nancy Todd

At the May 23, 2000, Annual Meeting and Dinner for the Friends of Fondren Library, I was reminded that all great stories often begin in the middle of an even greater one. The story of this project, of designing and building a new library, is itself in the middle stages. And of course, it is about a library that will be at the center, the academic heart of the campus.

A number of distinct concepts are being considered. Mr. Geoffrey Freeman of Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott introduced us to the architects' challenge. Instead of revealing any of the designs being considered, Mr. Freeman took the audience on a visual tour of various projects his firm has undertaken. Along the way, he described the problems and opportunities presented by site, existing buildings and architectural elements, space requirements, accessibility to natural light, technological demands and, of course, cost. Even though all of the projects were similar in that they were libraries, the solutions were diverse and imaginative. Mr. Freeman's extensive knowledge about these previous works and his enthusiasm about Fondren were inspiring. From questions and comments by the audience at the end of the presentation, it was clear that everyone felt invited into this unfolding story, and that the possibilities for this project and its impact on Rice University are even more exciting than we had anticipated.



Kathy Maxfield and Albert Kidd



Mary Pat Julian and Helen Worden



John Boles, David Boles and Karen Rogers



Lucas Elliot, Michele and Cliff Shedd



Rebecca Catlin, Ann Ribble, Texas Anderson and John Ribble

I think we all were assured that the design that is chosen will be one that has evolved out of a great deal of sensitivity and regard for balance among all the considerations mentioned above. And I know we all eagerly await the next chapter of this story!

Bookmark

Bookmark is the book club of the Friends of Fondren Library, featuring book reviews both in print and online at our web site. You can participate by sending your own reviews and comments to fofl@rice.edu.

The Book on the Bookshelf

by Henry Petroski

(Knopf, 1999)

Review by Logan Browning

"Oh, this finding out relationships is so delightful!" said Mab. "It is like a Chinese puzzle that one has to fit together. I feel sure something wonderful may be made of it, but I can't tell what."

"Dear me, Mab!" said Amy, "relationships must branch out. The only difference is, that we happen to know some of the people concerned. Such things are going on every day."

(George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda*, chap. 52, p. 560 in Oxford University Press World's Classics edition, 1988.)

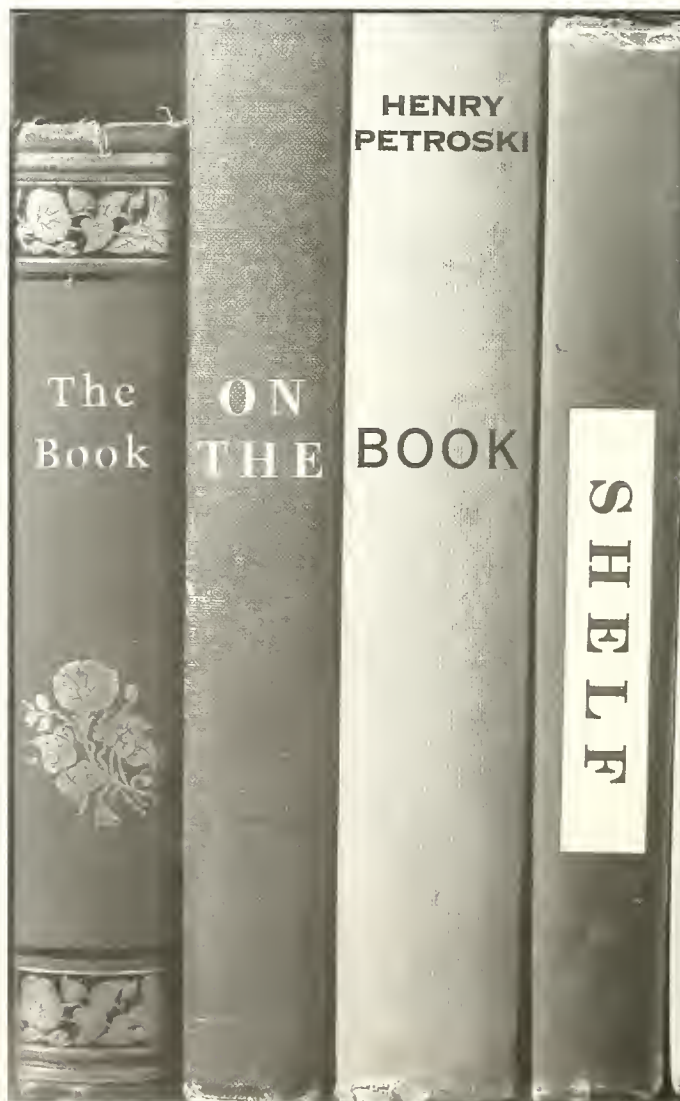
The English poet William Cowper, a nearly desperate victim

of writer's block in 1783, took up his friend and neighbor Lady Austen's exasperated challenge that he write a poem about a sofa, and produced over 5000 lines of blank verse published to great acclaim in 1785 as *The Task*. Henry Petroski, a professor of civil engineering and history at Duke University, has made an entire writing career of answering a series of similar though self-issued chal-

lenges, producing eight books on topics as various as pencils (*The Pencil*, 1990) and bridgebuilders (*Engineers of Dreams*, 1995). As with the earlier books, a reader's response to Petroski's newest publication will depend on whether one has more in common with George Eliot's effervescent, enlivening (and occasionally overwhelming) Mab or her routinely deadening (but common-sensical)

sister Amy. Petroski himself announces his affinity for the Mabian persona on page 13 of his latest book: "Looking afresh and thinking anew about the bookshelf, like looking or thinking from scratch about anything found or made, brings its own rewards, not the least of which are fresh new ways of encountering and experiencing the world."

This new work (itself so beautifully designed and produced that the dust jacket's ingenious display of books on a shelf almost alone justifies the cost of the entire volume) starts as whimsically as Cowper's poem, and, like that poem, it borrows its initial tone from the confident pronouncements as-



suming a common interest with which so much great literature begins: "One evening, while reading in my study, I looked up from my book and saw my bookshelves in a new and different light." There are echoes here, probably unwitting, of many authoritative foursquare first lines. Compare the openings of Seamus Heaney's recent translation of *Beowulf*: "So. The Spear-Danes in days gone by / and the kings who ruled them had courage and greatness"; of Robert Fitzgerald's version of Virgil's *Aeneid*: "I sing of warfare and a man at war"; and of Robert Pinsky's take on Dante's *Inferno*: "Midway on our life's journey, I found myself / In dark woods, the right road lost." Like these heroic openings, but with the merest tip of his tongue in cheek, Petroski's beginning points to the undeniable importance of his subject: the choices we make or that are made on our behalf regarding the storage, configuration, and display of knowledge. What more appropriate time for Friends of Fondren to reflect upon the significances of such choices than on the eve of this library's reconstruction and development? And, if you, like Petroski and like myself, are more Mab than Amy, this book will be a superb aid to such reflection.

The Book on the Bookshelf is filled with an array of informa-

tion that bibliophiles will find just plain fun to encounter or to recollect: the appropriate length of a shelf if it is not to bow beneath the weight of the books on it, the evolution of stack design, the variety of approaches to providing adequate lighting without damaging books, the long tug-of-war between advocates of shelving books spine out and those who favor fore-edge out, the surprisingly long history of readers who fail to return borrowed books and the elaborate schemes of librarians and book owners to thwart these loan defaulters, and a full account of the struggle already underway in the nineteenth century to determine when if ever off-site storage is acceptable. On this last point, Petroski vividly

*The Book on
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quotes Harvard president Charles Eliot Norton from his annual report of 1900-01: "In a university, however, the main object of a library must always be to teach the rising genera-

tion of scholars. Whatever injures a library for the use of learning's new recruits should be avoided, but without making it impossible for the library to serve also the needs of veteran scholars."

Petroski moves from chained books to chain bookstores, and he ranges chronologically from scrolls to e-books and geographically over several continents while citing sources as diverse as *Martha Stewart Living* ("To retrieve a book, push in the books at either side and pull gently") and the sixteenth-century Italian engineer Agostino Ramelli's *Diverse and Ingenious Machines* (which includes a design for a vertically revolving Ferris-wheel-like bookcase useful "especially for those who are indisposed and tormented by gout").

One of the most enjoyable parts of the book is its appendix, "Order, Order," in which Petroski enumerates and assesses twenty-five different ways to organize books, whether in public or private settings. His account in section 24 of the difficulties that result when two sets of books organized on different principles are brought

together into a new domestic arrangement is an especial delight. The bibliography is also a treasure.

This book gave me the

greatest pleasure, however, not because of the information it contained, but because of its wonderful capacity to stir long unvisited personal memories of early experiences with books. Each friend of Fondren will doubtless have similar moments that deserve recalling and that Petroski's own reminiscences will elicit. In my

case, recollections of my magnificent second-grade teacher Mrs. Wayne came vividly to mind for the first time in years. In my fifth- and sixth-grade years, she appointed me head student librarian at the small elementary school I attended. This meant processing new books and keeping them all in order, and learning for the first time how important it was to care for the material book, but it also meant getting first crack at the latest Newberry and Caldecott award winners and other great books when they came in. Afternoons spent shelving the books and pasting in date-due slips and writing Dewey Decimal numbers on the books' spines were again clearly before my mind's eye as I read Petroski's book. I also thought back to my first real challenge

at organizing my own books. When I was about eleven, Mr. Hoffman, a retired air force

This book gave me the greatest pleasure because of its capacity to stir long unvisited personal memories of early experiences with books.

colonel who lived across the street from us, decided to unload about three decades of *National Geographic*. Much to my parents' horror, he offered them to me and I accepted. I never tired of leafing through those wonderful pages, but I was not very good at keeping them stored tidily. These experiences, as trivial as they might seem, were the start of my own sense that the ways in which we physically encounter and organize texts are profoundly important to our intellectual attitudes and values.

Larry McMurtry, a writer with many Rice affiliations, has recently recorded a number of his own early experiences of books, and he includes in those an account of the importance to his intellectual development of "Rice's spacious open-stack li-

brary": "At last I was in a place where I could begin to read, and I did . . . Every time I stepped into the Rice library I felt a mingled sense of security and stimulation—a rightness of some sort. I felt that I had found my intellectual home . . ." (*Walter Benjamin at the Dairy Queen*, pp. 66-67). Surely, as those who share McMurtry's appreciation for the old Fondren turn to address the needs created by ever bur-

geoning amounts of knowledge and ever changing technologies, as Fondren's librarians and architects turn to discussions of "immersion corridors" and "digital production spaces," this sense of "rightness" must not be lost. The newly refigured Fondren must be ready to welcome the McMurtrys of this generation, and to make them feel, not like the Harvard undergraduate quoted recently in the *New York Times* as saying, "I hate the library, so I try to avoid it" (15 June 2000, D1), but instead that they too have found an intellectual home, a humane place, as Malcolm Gillis, Charles Henry, and others envision it, of reconciliation and socialization. Attending to Petroski's book is a good first step to insuring that the new library will be such a place.

Treasures in the Attic

By ALAN HARRIS BATH

The Woodson Research Center is the repository for Fondren Library's special collections of rare books, manuscripts and university archives. It is also the University's attic and, like our own attics, contains familiar things – but we no longer remember exactly where they came from or how they got there. From time to time, *The Flyleaf* will offer articles on special collections in the Woodson Center, with emphasis on the acquisition rather than the gift. The Russell Wait collection of materials on the Port of Houston is one such holding.

J. Russell Wait was General Manager of the Port of Houston from 1930 to 1947. He was born in New Jersey in 1882 and was graduated from Lehigh University in 1906. Prior to his coming to Houston, Mr. Wait had been director of the Port of Charleston, South Carolina, and had spent a year at the Port of Beaumont. Four years after retiring from the Houston Port Authority, Mr. Wait came out of retirement in 1951 to serve the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District as general manager and re-retired to Kerrville the following year.

While General Manager of the Port of Houston, Mr. Wait was responsible for the dredging of the ship channel from Galveston to the Turning

Basin and under his leadership Houston grew from twelfth to the nation's third largest port. During these years Mr. Wait amassed detailed information on the history and activities of the port: its construction, facilities, finances, clients, and operations. While with the Brazos River Harbor Navigation District he expanded his collection to include District Annual Reports for the years 1952 through 1958, with supplementing documents and detailed, annotated photographs of the harbor construction that had taken place from 1952 to 1956. He collected extensive studies of other Texas, American, and Canadian ports and in addition acquired a sizable library of books relating to Texas and to transportation and shipping.

Although unrelated to the body of the collection, Mr. Wait's gift included two large scrapbooks containing clippings from the local newspapers covering events of the early years of the Second World War. This press record in daily detail, from late August 1939 to June

1942 provides fascinating insights into the increasing impact of the war upon American life.

Mr. Wait donated these and other materials to Rice in October 1967.

Why Rice? Mr. Wait was neither a native Texan nor a Rice Institute graduate. Neverthe-



J. Russell Wait, 1928

The Port of Houston 1937



less, over the years he had been a frequent lecturer at Rice and had developed a great fondness for the institution. At the time he announced the gift of his collection to the university he said, "Most of my work was done in Houston, and most of the pictures and many of the books and papers have Houston origins. It seemed to me that this great university should have them."

There were, however, deeper reasons prompting Mr. Wait's generosity. He considered his papers to be documentation of his lifelong dedication to the principle that all users of the port should be treated fairly and equally. He had enforced the public tariff rates as mandated by Congress, striving to ensure that they should be the same for all and not subject to special rates for special interests.

Mr. Wait saw his collection as a monument to his lifetime of public service and wished it preserved intact and available for research by the general public. In offering his papers to Rice Mr. Wait sought assurances that they would not be locked away in some "Rare Book" room, but be made readily available to students and scholars. Once convinced that this would be the case, Mr. Wait agreed to donate his collection to the uni-

versity, an event that took place at Cohen House on October 6, 1967, Mr. Wait's 85th birthday.

The collection remains today, as he would have wished, a detailed record of the development of one of Houston's major industries and a tribute to a dedicated public official.

May, 1937

Houston Port Book

17

Scrap Iron and Steel

By J. RUSSELL WAIT

Director of the Port

FOR SEVERAL MONTHS we have witnessed a boom in the movement of scrap iron and steel to the ports of this country and through the ports to the world markets. The movement has been exceptional and the prices obtained have been very attractive, and this article is prompted with a view of setting forth some facts which will answer questions of interested parties.

As this article goes to press, there must be a quarter of a million tons of scrap iron and steel at the ports in this port district and the movement by boat reached close to 100,000 tons in April.

Where does this scrap iron and steel go and is it intended for warfare purposes are questions often asked, and by way of answering the first portion of the question, the following table is submitted:

Country	1936 Tons	1937 (4 Mo.) Tons
---	7	1,718.7
4		8,273.7
1		
2		5,492.2
3		1,753.7
5		
6		16,605.1
9		79,725.6
2		15,057.4
8		
8		

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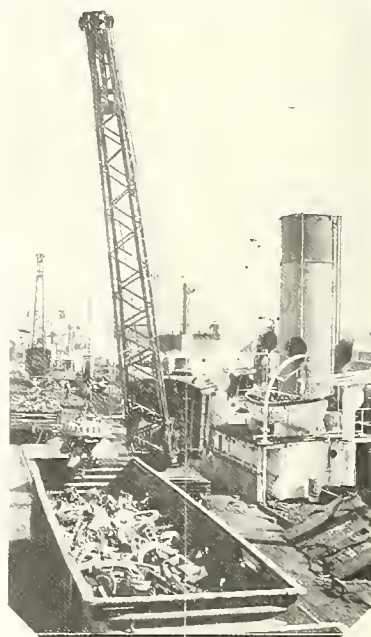
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Among these are

steel rails, boiler plates, forgings, heavy springs, shafting, chain and cast steel parts, all cut to convenient size.

No. 2 steel scrap has always covered all other steel scrap, such as automobile frames, light steel from cars and tanks, farm tools, and similar steel articles. However, now we see a class of scrap which must be Nos. 3 and 4. It consists of light strap iron, bed frames and many parts approaching paper in thinness.

Cast Iron

Cast iron is the product of the foundry and cast iron scrap in all instances consists of such products which have served their use.
(Continued on page 51)



Loading Scrap Iron at Houston

A story and photos from a 1937 article in the *Houston Port Book* by J. Russell Wait.

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October 1, 1999 – May 31, 2000

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November 4, 2000

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